

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/726,802

Examiner

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, OSAMU

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-7 and 21-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/21/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING OATH/DECLARATION

Oath/Declaration

1. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in **37 C.F.R. 1.63**.

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAWINGS

Drawings

2. The applicant's drawings submitted are acceptable for examination purposes.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

3. As required by **M.P.E.P. 609(C)**, the applicant's submissions of the Information Disclosure Statement dated December 21, 2007 is acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. As required by **M.P.E.P 609 C(2)**, a copy of the PTOL-1449 initialed and dated by the examiner is attached to the instant office action.

IV. TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

4. The terminal disclaimer filed on July 05, 2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the

expiration date of any patent granted on the Application Number 10/726794, 10/726440, 10/726441, 10/726362 and 10/726350, and US Patent 7,177,329, 7,088,741 and 7,068,686 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

V. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by **37 CFR § 1.312**. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CORRECTIONS BY THE EXAMINER

6. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Ferrazano, having Reg. No. 44,105, on September 11, 2007. Accordingly, since a complete record of the interview has been incorporated in the instant examiner's amendment, no separate interview summary form is included in the instant office letter **MPEP § 713.04**.

CORRECTIONS MADE IN THE APPLICATION

The application has been amended as following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The below described amendments to the claims are necessary to further clarify the claimed invention.

In claim 21, line 5, "... a unidirectional main link ..." should be replace with -... an unidirectional main link ...-.

In claim 21, lines 14-15, "... if the multimedia source device supports only analog data ..." should be replace with -... if the multimedia sink device supports only analog data ...-.

In claim 24, line 10, "... a unidirectional main link ..." should be replace with -... an unidirectional main link ...-.

In claim 24, lines 11-12, "... from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device ..." should be replace with -... from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device, the signal cable not including a clock line ...-.

In claim 24, line 15, "... at least one switch for setting an operational mode ..." should be replace with -... at least one switch for automatic setting an operational mode ...-.

In claim 24, line 17, "... if the multimedia source device support only analog ..." should be replace with -... if the multimedia sink device support only analog ...-.

In claim 25, line 3, "... having a main channel and an auxiliary channel ..." should be replace with -... having the unidirectional main channel and the bi-directional auxiliary channel ...-.

VI. DISTINGUISHING FEATURES RECITED IN THE CLAIMS

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

7. Claims 3-7 and 21-27 are allowed.

The following is an **Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**,

See MPEP 1302.14:

The primary reasons for allowance of claim 21 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion in the claim that there are **"... providing a coupling device including a signal cable comprising (i) a bi-directional auxiliary channel arranged to transfer information between the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device and (ii) an unidirectional main link arranged to transport multimedia data packets from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device, the signal cable not including a clock line ... automatically configuring the coupling device, including determining if the multimedia source device supports only analog data; setting an operational mode of the coupling device to analog if the multimedia source device supports only analog data; determining if the multimedia sink device supports only analog data; setting the operational mode of the coupling device to analog if the multimedia sink device supports only analog data; setting the operational mode of the coupling device to digital if both of the multimedia source device and the multimedia**

sink device support digital data; packetizing only the video data to form a packetized video data stream formed of a number of video data packets; and passing the video data packets by way of the unidirectional main link from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device, and wherein control signals are passed over only the auxiliary channel such that substantially all unidirectional main link bandwidth is used for transmission of video data only..." The prior art of record including the

disclosures of Kori (US Patent 6,963,968), Hulvey (US Patent 5,940,137), Rogers et al. (US Patent 5,786,844) and Clark (US Patent: 5,949,437) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination. Because claims 3-7 and 22-23 depend directly/indirectly on claim 21, these claims are considered allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

The primary reasons for allowance of claim 24 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion in the claim that there are "... a signal cable for connecting the first interface to the second interface, the signal cable including (i) a bi-directional auxiliary channel arranged to transfer information between the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device, and (ii) an unidirectional main link arranged to transport multimedia data packets from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device, the signal cable not including a clock line; a processor configured to determine if the multimedia source device supports only analog data, and to determine if the multimedia sink device supports only analog data;

and at least one switch for automatic setting an operational mode of the configurable coupling device to analog if the multimedia source device supports only analog data, setting the operational mode of the configurable coupling device to analog if the multimedia sink device supports only analog data, and setting the operational mode of the configurable coupling device to digital if both of the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device support digital data, in accordance with the determination of the processor, wherein the video data packets are passed by way of the unidirectional main link from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device, and wherein control signals are passed over only the auxiliary channel such that substantially all unidirectional main link bandwidth is used for transmission of video data only..." The prior art of record including the disclosures of Kori (US Patent 6,963,968), Hulvey (US Patent 5,940,137), Rogers et al. (US Patent 5,786,844) and Clark (US Patent: 5,949,437) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination. Because claims 25-27 depend directly/indirectly on claim 24, these claims are considered allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM to 5PM.

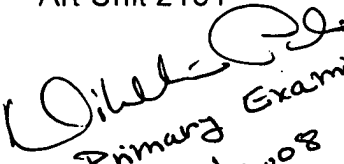
IMPORTANT NOTE

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 22, 2008

Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2181


Primary Examiner
1/24/2008